Puerto Rican hutia

The **Puerto Rican hutia** (*Isolobodon portoricensis*) is an extinct species of rodent in the family Capromyidae. It was found in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Puerto Rico.

The Puerto Rican hutia was a vital food source for the Amerindians for many years. With being hunted by Arawak Indians, they continued to survive until the arrival of early European explorers. Christopher Columbus and his crew are believed to have eaten the species upon their arrival. The species declined following European colonization of the West Indies. It is unclear whether it survived after facing threats from the early introduction of black rats (*Rattus rattus*) by the first European settlers around 1500, although it may have been finally wiped out by introduced mongooses in the nineteenth or early 20th century. Although commonly regarded as extinct, some researchers hold out hopes that the species still survives in undisturbed refuges.[2]

Puerto Rican hutia	
Conservation status	
Extinct (IUCN 3.1)[1]	
Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Mammalia
Order:	Rodentia
Family:	Capromyidae
Genus:	†*Isolobodon*
Species:	†***I. portoricensis***
Binomial name	
†***Isolobodon portoricensis*** Allen, 1916	

Sources

1. Turvey, S. & Dávalos, L. (2008). "*Isolobodon portoricensis*" (https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/10860/3223144). *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. **2008**: e.T10860A3223144. doi:10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T10860A3223144.en (https://doi.org/10.2305%2FIUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T10860A3223144.en).
2. "Puerto Rican Hutia (Isolobodon portoricensis)" (http://www.edgeofexistence.org/mammals/species_info.php?id=32).

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